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Reply to Office Action of September 18, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-27, and 32-35 are pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 8-16, 25, 27, and 31 under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Lewis-Sawabe-Kim combination. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this rejection, especially in view of the reasons that were provided in the Office Action for maintaining the rejection.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the rejection was maintained because (1) Kim discloses the selection of a parental level by a user for a DVD video and (2) Sawabe discloses storing information on a DVD indicative of a parental level, e.g., an MPAA rating such as G, PG, R, etc. However, combining these features still would not achieve the claimed subject matter.

This is because the claims allow a user not only to set a parental level for a particular video signal, but also provides for **storing a code that corresponds to the user-selected parental level on the disc itself**. None of the cited references teach or suggest these features. That is, even if Kim and Sawabe and Lewis were combined in the manner indicated by the Examiner, the result would be a system which (1) reads a parental level pre-recorded by the disc manufacturer on a disc, (2) displays that parental level on an OSD, and (3) allows a user to change the parental level using a menu such as corresponds to Figure 3B in Kim.

However, such a combination would not **store a code corresponding to the changed level on a disc**, much less in a **navigation area** of the disc as specifically recited by claim 1. In fact, Kim teaches a different system altogether, i.e., one that controls a servo using controller 203 to change a present viewing restriction level into a user-selected level. (See column 5, lines 31-36).

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Instead of controlling a servo, the method of claim 1 records a code corresponding to the user-selected parental level in the navigation area of a disc. The Kim and Sawabe references do not teach or suggest these features, and neither do any of the other references or record.

Claim 1 further recites that the second parental code is generated "when the first parental grade code is not included with the video signal." In other words, the method of claim 1 generates and records the second parental code in the navigation area of a disk only when a first parental code (e.g., one stored on the disk by a manufacturer such as G, PG, R rating) is not provided on the disk. The claimed method, therefore, allows a user to set and record his or her own rating on the disk, when the disk comes with no rating information at all.

The Sawabe and Kim references do not teach or suggest these features. In both patents, a disk is disclosed as coming with pre-stored ratings (G, PG, etc.). Sawabe and Kim do not perform a detection operation to determine whether a disk has a rating as a pre-condition to generating and storing a second parental code in a navigation area of a disk.

In view of the foregoing considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the cited combination does not teach or suggest that "the second parental code corresponds to one of a plurality of parental levels selected by a user for the video signal" and that "the second parental grade code is recorded in a navigation area of a disc from which the video signal is received" as recited in claim 1. (By way of a non-limiting example, the second parental code is illustratively shown corresponding to Final_C_D in Figure 6 of the application drawings). Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over a Lewis-Sawabe-Kim combination.

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Claim 25 recites features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from the cited references. In addition, in this paper claim 25 has been amended to recite "a memory that stores status information indicating generation of the second parental code." (See, e.g., Final_C_D in Figure 6). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references; that is, none of the cited references teach or suggest storing status information in a device memory that provides an indication that a code has been generated <u>and stored</u> on a disc indicating a user-selected parental level. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 and its dependent claims are allowable.

The rejection of claims 17-24 under 35 USC § 103(a) for being obvious in view of a Sawabe-Kim combination was also maintained by the Examiner. Applicants also request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 17 recites features similar to those mentioned above which distinguish the Kim and Sawabe references. For example, claim 17 recites that "the parental code is a user-selected code configured to be <u>updated and recorded in the second memory area with another user-selected code by a command</u>." In addition, claim 17 recites "a third memory area configured to store <u>status information indicating the renewal of the parental code recorded in the second memory area</u>." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claims 4, 5, 7, and 26 were rejected for being obvious in view of a Lewis-Sawabe-Kim-Ostrover combination. Applicants traverse this rejection on grounds that the Ostrover publication does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from the Lewis, Sawabe,

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and Kim references. Claim 26 was rejected based on a similar combination of references. Applicants submit that claim 26 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 25.

New claims 32-35 have been added to the application.

Claim 32 recites that "the first parental grade code is a code that is pre-recorded on the disk," for example, by a manufacturer or movie ratings company. Applicants submit that these features are allowable over the cited references when taken in combination with the features of claim 1.

Claim 33 recites that "the second parental grade code is recorded in a section corresponding to a real-time recording video manager (RTR_VMG) on the disk." (See, for example, Paragraph [47] of the specification for support). The claimed method, therefore, allows for the creation of a new section on DVDs and other discs that is specifically set aside for the purpose of storing a parental code set by a user, when the disk did not come with any manufacturer rating information, i.e., the first parental code. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 34 recites that the second parental grade code is recorded in a section corresponding to a parental manager information table (PTL_MAIT) on the disk. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 35 recites that the disk includes a plurality of titles and wherein second parental codes are generated and recorded in the navigation area of the disc when no corresponding first parental codes are detected from the disk for the titles. (See, for example, Figure 6 for support). These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.
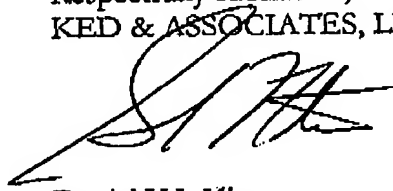
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     In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

     To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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